

**May 2026 Partnership
Convening:**

**Unregulated
Intoxicants-Legislative
Update**



today's presenter



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who we are

**Solving problems through
policy change.**

New Futures works to improve the health and well-being of all Granite Staters through public policy change and civic empowerment.



what we support

Our policy priority areas span all stages of life.

Early Childhood

Strengthening families, mitigating adverse childhood experiences.

Children's Behavioral Health

Supporting a comprehensive system of care.

Health

Ensuring access to quality affordable health care.

Substance Use Disorder

Addressing stigma and discrimination in care for those struggling with addiction.

Public Health

Protecting New Hampshire's public health system.

Alcohol and Other Drugs

Preventing substance use through community education and regulatory strategies.

Healthy Aging

Ensuring older adults have access to services and the ability to choose where and how they age.

PRODUCTS TARGETING NH YOUTH >>>

Hemp-Derived THC Products



- **11% of U.S. 12th graders used delta-8 THC in 2023**—that’s 1-2 students in every average classroom.³
- Often **packaged to look like candy** or popular snack brands.
- **Poison control centers handled 2,362 adverse events** involving delta-8 between January 2021-February 2022.⁴

Flavored Nitrous Oxide



- Sold in **flavored containers** designed to appeal to youth.
- Health effects include cough, rapid heart rate, paranoia, anxiety, breathing problems, and seizures.⁷
- **Promoted by popular influencers on TikTok.**⁸

Kratom



- Described as an **“opioid-like substance”** containing compounds **13-46 times more potent than morphine.**⁵
- Associated with liver damage, seizures, and overdose deaths.⁶
- **Marketed as “natural” and “safe” despite serious health risks.** Comes in flavors like cotton candy (pictured).

Deceptively Packaged Vapes



- Products designed as school supplies (pens, highlighters, erasers).
- Branded with characters from comics, movies, and video games known to appeal to minors.
- Include interactive video game capabilities.



Strategies Targeting Our Youth



Definitional Loopholes: Using technical terminology (like “hemp-derived” vs “cannabis”) to evade age restrictions



Unregulated Products: Introducing new substances (kratom, nitrous oxide) with no youth protections.



Deceptive Marketing: Packaging addictive products as candy, school supplies, or video games.



Regulatory Gaps: Selling to minors before enforcement systems can catch up.

2026 Bills To Follow



HB 1538 – preventing vape products from being marketed towards minors

Vaping companies disguise nicotine products as highlighters, USB drives, smartwatches, and candy to hide use from parents and teachers.

HB 1538 prohibits marketing vapes that imitate non-vape products, using child-appealing characters, or including video game features.

Status

House- Interim Study

2026 Bills To Follow



SB 624 – restricting access to certain hemp-derived products

Prohibits the sale of any hemp-derived THC products to anyone under 21 and strengthens penalties for licensed establishments that continue to sell these products.

Status

House: PASSED/ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENT

Senate: PASSED/ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENT Next Stop- Back to the Senate to Concur or Non-concur



SB 461 – relative to the definition of hemp

Requires measuring total THC concentration, including all forms that become psychoactive, just like we measure total alcohol content in beverages.

Status

House: PASSED/ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENT

Senate: PASSED/ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENT

Next Stop- Back to the Senate to Concur or Non-concur

2026 Bills To Follow



SB 557 – making it illegal for liquor commission licensees to sell, distribute, furnish, offer for sale, advertise, manufacture, possess, or allow the ingestion, inhalation, smoking, or vaping of certain kratom products.

Status:

Senate: PASSED/ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENT

House: PASSED/ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENT

Next Stop- Back to the Senate to Concur or Non-concur



HB 1630 – prohibiting the sale of nitrous oxide and certain inhalants for recreational purposes
Explicitly prohibits flavored products marketed to youth, while protecting legitimate uses (medical, food service, automotive).

Status:

Senate: PASSED/ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENT

House: PASSED/ADOPTED

Next Stop- Governor's office



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